

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 136

By Black

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Sheriff Gene Bollinger for fifty years of service in law enforcement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Robertson County Sheriff Gene Bollinger, who has devoted fifty years of his life's work to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, during a distinguished career spanning six decades, Sheriff Bollinger has met every President of this country since Dwight D. Eisenhower, and received both Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service training; and

WHEREAS, born in 1932, to a sharecropping family with eleven children, Mr. Bollinger was raised in Robertson County and graduated from Greenbrier High School; he briefly worked for the John Deere Supply Company in Nashville and Genesco Shoe Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Gene Bollinger enlisted in the United States Air Force in which he served for four years in the intelligence field, ultimately attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant; he was stationed temporarily in Guam and served as a courier during the Korean conflict; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Mr. Bollinger went to work for the Tennessee Highway Patrol and served with acumen and alacrity in that position until 1990; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Bollinger has witnessed many historical events through the decades; he was one of 250 troopers sent to maintain the peace in Memphis, in March of 1968, during the riots resulting from the sanitation strike, the same conflict that came to a head when Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4 of that same year; and

WHEREAS, he bravely responded to a jail fire in Dayton during the late 1960s; and

WHEREAS, dangerous situations are standard with any job in the noble field of law enforcement; Sheriff Bollinger was caught in a crossfire and shot while responding to a call at a truck stop outside the Dayton city limits in November of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the injury sidelined him for ninety days and the gun pellets are still lodged in his arm today; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1990, Sheriff Bollinger retired from the Highway Patrol with the rank of Captain; his retirement was short-lived, however, because he was hired as Chief Deputy to then-Robertson County Sheriff Ted Emery on the following day; and

WHEREAS, Gene Bollinger served in that position for eleven years before taking over the duties of Sheriff in 2001, after the death of Sheriff Emery; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Bollinger has since been elected twice to the position of Sheriff and says he doesn't know the meaning of the word, "retirement"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bollinger epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; his exemplary tenure in law enforcement has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sheriff Gene Bollinger for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sheriff Gene Bollinger for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate him upon his fifty outstanding years in law enforcement, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.